

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron, comprising:
  - a soleplate ~~(1, 2)~~ having a contacting surface ~~(12)~~ for contacting objects to be ironed, and at least one elevated surface ~~(13, 27)~~ which is located at a higher level than the contacting surface ~~(12)~~;
  - a steam generator ~~(30)~~ for generating steam, which is separately arranged with respect to the soleplate ~~(1, 2)~~; and
  - two separately controllable heating means ~~(20, 31)~~, wherein a first of the heating means ~~(20)~~ is associated with the soleplate ~~(1, 2)~~ and is arranged for heating the soleplate ~~(1, 2)~~, and wherein a second of the heating means ~~(31)~~ is associated with the steam generator ~~(30)~~ and is arranged for heating a content of the steam generator ~~(30)~~;

wherein the heating means ~~(20)~~ associated with the soleplate ~~(1, 2)~~ are exclusively arranged on the at least one elevated surface ~~(13, 27)~~ of the soleplate ~~(1, 2)~~.
2. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to claim 1, wherein the heating means ~~(20)~~ associated with the soleplate ~~(1, 2)~~ comprise at least one flat resistive heating track ~~(20)~~.
3. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~claim 1, comprising at least one embossed area ~~(11)~~ which is provided in the soleplate ~~(1)~~ and which forms a recess at a bottom side of the soleplate ~~(1)~~, wherein the recess is designed for use as a steam distribution channel during operation of the steam iron.
4. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to claim 3, wherein the heating means ~~(20)~~ associated with the soleplate ~~(1)~~ are arranged on a top surface ~~(13)~~ of the embossed area ~~(11)~~.
5. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to ~~claim 3 or 4~~claim 3, comprising a wire mesh ~~(15)~~ for covering a bottom side of the embossed area ~~(11)~~.

6. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to claim 5, wherein the wire mesh ~~(15)~~ is attached to the soleplate ~~(1)~~ by means of detachably arranged fastening means ~~(16)~~.

7. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to claim 1, wherein the soleplate ~~(2)~~ comprises at least one steam opening ~~(18)~~ for letting through steam to the objects to be ironed, and at least one canopy ~~(25)~~ covering said at least one steam opening ~~(18)~~, whereby a canopy chamber ~~(28)~~ is delimited which is designed for use as a steam distribution chamber during operation of the steam iron.

8. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to claim 7, wherein the heating means ~~(20)~~ associated with the soleplate ~~(2)~~ are arranged on a roof plate ~~(27)~~ of the canopy ~~(25)~~.

9. *(Currently Amended)* Soleplate for a steam iron according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, comprising a substantially planar sheet ~~(10)~~ and at least one embossed area ~~(11)~~ provided in said sheet ~~(10)~~.

10. *(Currently Amended)* Soleplate for a steam iron according to ~~claim 7 or 8~~ claim 7, comprising a substantially planar sheet ~~(10)~~, at least one steam opening ~~(18)~~ arranged in said sheet ~~(10)~~, and at least one canopy ~~(25)~~ covering said at least one steam opening ~~(18)~~.